Dangers from disposal of atomic Wastes

93. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Atomic Energy Commission is seized of the dangers emanating from disposal of atomic waste;

(b) if so, what are the safeguards presently in force;

(c) whether any negative report has been given on our methods of safety by the IAEA, Geneva; and

(d) whether any periodic study is being conducted into the radiation hazards being faced by workers in atomic energy plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Department of Atomic Energy has evolved safe practices for the management of nuclear wastes, after taking into account the hazards. Treatment, storage and disposal of nuclear wastes is closely monitored by the Department's Safety Committees which follow guidelines given by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir. The Health & Safety Group of BARC closely supervises the radiological health and safety aspects of the personnel working in all the nuclear facilities in the country. The exposures are carefully and regularly monitored to ensure adherence to health and safety regulations.

Condition of game sanctuaries

94. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have examined the condition of various game sanctuaries recently;

(b) whether it is a fact that a large scale killings of animals took place in some sanctuaries in Madhya Pradesh; and

(c) whether any new sanctuaries are proposed to be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) A Status Report on the Management of National Parks and Sanctuaries in India was prepared in 1989.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The declaration of areas as Sanctuaries, National Parks, etc., under the Wild Life (Protection) Act is ordered by the State Governments keeping in view the suitability of sites and the availability of funds.

Grant in aid to institutions run by religious denominations

95. SHRI DEBABRATA BISWAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of educational institutions being run by managements of various religious denominations (State-wise); and

(b) the grant in-aid given to each of them by Government annually—State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and shall be laid on the Table of the House.